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Ph: 2496520 / 21 / 23 Fax: 2496530
E-mail: voice@starofmysore.com
ad@starofmysore.com

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City Offices: K.R. Circle Ph: 2431774
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INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

Colleges told to complete graduate syllabus by May 30

Institutions to hold online classes; final decision on exams post-May 17

Bengaluru / Mysuru, May 10 (RK,DM&BCT)- With an intention to ensure timely completion of the syllabus of graduate courses, Minister for Higher Education Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan, who is also the Deputy Chief Minister, has instructed Vice-Chancellors to conduct classes online and wind up the portions by May 30.

Addressing Vice-Chancellors of all Universities — Private and Government — in the State via video-conferencing yesterday, Dr. Ashwath Narayan said completing the prescribed syllabus will avoid confusion. "Everyone should finish the syllabus by May 30 through online classes. Teachers have resumed work at Government Colleges and are taking online classes from the College itself. Private Colleges should do the same," he said.

Minister for Higher Education Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan during video-conference.

Promotion without exams

He said that the Government had been receiving suggestions to promote students of first and second years without examinations on the lines of the Maharashtra system. However, the VCs suggested giving students the carryover option instead of promoting them without exams. They said students could be given the option of slowly clearing the previous year's subjects.

Promoting them without exams will not serve the purpose. They even suggested conducting online exams instead of promoting the students based on their past performance. At the end, the Minister announced that a final decision on holding undergraduate examinations would be taken after May 17, when the lockdown ends. "We will have another meeting with the Heads of Universities after May 17 and make a final decision," Dr. Ashwath Narayan said.

Uniform pattern of syllabus

The Minister directed the committees constituted to study the implementation of a uniform pattern of syllabus and study material across the State to submit their reports within 15 days. He said all the five committees constituted for the purpose are supposed to coordinate with the Task Force constituted under the Vision Group for Higher Studies while tabling their reports.

The five committees constituted for the purpose are headed by Prof. Y.S. Siddegowda, Prof. G. Hemantha Kumar, Prof. Ramachandra Gowda, Prof. Karisiddappa and Prof. S. Vidyashankar, Vice-Chancellors of Tumakuru, Mysore, Belagavi Rani Chennamma Universities, Visvesvaraya Technological University and Karnataka State Open University respectively.

Priority for final year

Speaking to *Star of Mysore* this morning, Prof. G. Hemantha Kumar said that top priority will be given for conducting the final year exam of degree courses as students have to make a choice regarding taking up a job or pursuing higher studies.

"We were against the suggestion of promoting first and second year students based on their past performance. The Universities have adequate time to hold exam for first and second year students and the focus should be on holding exam for final year students now as they would be looking at future options after completing their degree," he said.

Noting that the students will be asked to attend physical classes once the public transport system is back on track after the lockdown ends, he said that the University would evolve plans on maintaining social distancing norms.

Mysuru readies to receive 2,500 foreign returnees

- District Administration takes over 170 hotels for quarantining
- Foreign travellers will have to foot their own hotel bills

Mysuru, May 10 (RK&BCT)- More than 11,000 residents of Karnataka stranded in foreign countries are set to arrive by special international flights under Vande Bharat Mission and the Mysuru District Administration has taken measures to receive the natives of Mysuru, numbering over an estimated 2,500. The administration has hired over 170 hotels inside Mysuru city to quarantine the returnees.

These returnees have registered their names and other details in the Indian Embassies and Consulates in the countries they have been stranded since Mar. 23 and they will arrive at Bengaluru and Mangaluru airports and the sea ports at Karwar and Mangaluru.

Officials have chalked out an elaborate plan of action to prevent a possible spurt in COVID-19 cases in Mysuru at a time when only four active cases are being treated at the COVID-19 Hospital on KRS Road.

The hotels under various categories have been taken over by the District Administration with the consent of the respective hotel managements and the cleaning, sanitisation process have begun and kept ready for returnees.

(See MYSURU on page 6)

Govt. for 30 percent cut in curriculum

Lessons on Corona in the offing

Bengaluru, May 10- The State Government is said to have taken a decision to cut down academic curriculum (syllabus) in Schools and Colleges for the forthcoming 2020-21 academic year.

As the Coronavirus is spreading its wings across the entire country, educational institutions in the State and the country are unlikely to re-open at least for a couple of months. In this scenario, the Government, which seems to be determined to complete the 2020-21 academic year in accordance with the usual practice, by the end of April-May next year, has decided to cut down 30 percent of the syllabus. The Government has proposed to cut down such lessons which are deemed unnecessary and largely repetitive by experts.

Primary and Secondary Education Minister S. Suresh Kumar, who held a meeting with the Department officials on Thursday, directed the officials to identify those topics which are deemed unnecessary in school curriculum (first to tenth standards) and PUC syllabus.

(See GOVT. on page 6)

'Football Lily'

The Corona Flower ?

This is the season of lilies of the **'spring ephemeral'** category meaning they are transitory. All of a sudden they pop up from the ground putting out their foliage and flowers within the span of a few fleeting weeks. Later they go dormant and disappear from view after completing their life cycle, but don't die. Within the brief period, these lilies make a great impact with their magnificent blooms.

"Football Lily" belongs to this category. Splendid pink coloured flower heads appear on a long stock from the bulb resembling a small sized football atop a long stem in a leafless condition during April / May. The arrival of the blooms every year is a welcome surprise in gardens as they suddenly emerge from the ground.

It has many names like 'Fireball', 'Pin Cushion Lilly','Scarlet lily', 'Football lily' 'Red cape lily', 'Hood lily', 'Blood flower' and 'Powder puff lily'. In Kannada, it is known as "Boo Chakra Hoovu". Many call it 'May Flower'. But in my view, the flowers of 'Gul Mohar' tree are long known as May flowers. The plant is currently blooming in my garden and the cynosure of passersby.

The scientific name is ***Scadoxus multiflorus (syn. Haemanthus multiflorus). Scadoxus*** was named by Rafinesque to mean glorious umbel. However, the synonym genera ***'Haemanthus'*** is derived from Greek and refers to red coloured flowers (***Haema:*** blood; ***anthos:*** flower), ***'multiflorus',*** refers to an innumerable number of flowers. It is native to rocky cliffs and woodlands of tropical Africa and Yemen.

USES

- Very attractive ornamental garden plant.
- In Guinea and Northern Nigeria, the bulbs are used in fish poison. Also used in arrow poisoning in some African countries. The bulbs also possess some medicinal properties and used to treat dropsy, scabies and poorly healing wounds in their nativity.

CORONA LOOK ALIKE?

The floral head (umbel) with innumerable radiant scarlet flowers spiked on a large spherical mass resembles the shape of the Coronavirus magnified in million X. Perhaps if you really fit in Coronaviruses within the flower head it could be trillions in numbers. Another interesting fact is their toxic nature as all plant parts are poisonous due to toxic substance called lycosine and other alkaloids; and one has to wash hands thoroughly with soap after handling the plants! See the similarity to COVID-19!

What a curios twist of fate! The plant reminds me of *'Vishakanye'* who was supposed to be very beautiful but had a poisonous body. I named it as Corona flower (Coflo-20), one more name to the long list of common names of this plant. Certainly it deserves to be the "Flower of the Year 2020"

TREE FACTS

USEFUL TIPS

- Can easily be grown in pots or on ground.
- Suitable for balcony, windowsill, around the tree base, along a warm sunny wall.
- The plants need warm climate. Full sunlight or dappled shade is preferable in temperate areas. Under hot and humid weather conditions of the coastal areas, semi shade is ideal, preferably under trees.
- The plants can be propagated from offsets, bulbs or seeds.
- Sometimes, bugs cause tufts of white waxy wool on the plant. Clean the affected parts with a clean damp cloth and spray neem based bio-pesticide (2ml / liter) for remedy.
- **Caution:** The plant sap is supposed to cause skin irritation, swelling of lips and tongue. Cause mild stomach upset if ingested (salivation, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea). Therefore, wash your hands thoroughly with soap after handling the plants.
- The plant is absolutely safe to grow in your gardens. Need not be afraid of their toxic nature. It is not fatal.

PLANT BIODATA

Football lily is a bulbous perennial. It is tender and deciduous. This exotic herb bears broad, brilliant green leaves, arranged spirally. They are long and sword shaped. The underground bulbs are white, fleshy and thick. They remain fully dormant in the winter, but come summer, a long solid stout stem pops up. It is on this stem, called the scape, that the globular flower head blooms. Each plant will produce only one spectacular flower-head in a season. Innumerable scarlet flowers (up to 200 flowers) grouped on a large spherical mass on a long stalk, held clear of the foliage at the end of a solitary stem, is a novelty. Like the flowers of the onion, the individual flower is cylindrical at the base, with six star-like tepals (neither sepals or petals). The stamens are conspicuous. After the flowers fade and finally collapse, the fruits, orange or red berries, are visible as swellings of the flower stalks below the flowers, resembling tiny beads. These decorative berries can remain on the plant for nearly two months. When they are ripen, the inflorescence disappears and there is a brief spell of silence. Then the lush leaves start appearing. Before winter, they fade, turn yellow and die, but the bulbs remain underground, waiting for the following summer to pop up again. There are two sub species. The one described above is ***Scadoxus multiflorus ssp. multiflorus.*** The other one ***Scadoxus multiflorus subsp. katherinae*** (formerly ***Haemanthus katherinae)*** is a taller plant with wavy-edged leaves and somewhat larger flower heads.

Text & photographs by
Dr. Mahadeswara Swamy
Scientist
Mob: **97429-91057**
e-mail: **swamy_clri@hotmail.com**

VOICE OF THE READER

Power bill: Consumers taken for a ride by CESC

Sir,

With the COVID pandemic eruption in early March this year, and declaring of the lockdown, many agencies and institutions both Government and private came forward voluntarily to help the people to reduce their distress in payment of statutory bills and bank loans. CESC too joined and said that next three months, the bill not be collected and fine not levied and disconnection of power not made.

Now with relaxing of lockdown, CESC started collecting the dues. Though some consumers had paid the average bill, the present power bill issued is very high, even after deducting the average paid in April. On enquiry with CESC, they state that the average is calculated and consumption might be high.

A keen observation can reveal that the bill amount for two months is calculated for the total number of units consumed and the charges without giving monthly split of energy charges on rate based.

Further, a consumer who has paid Rs. 620 in February, Rs. 700 in March, has also paid Rs. 700 as average in April is billed now for two months at Rs. 2,540. Even the solar deduction is considered for one month itself in the average amount, wherein it should have been deducted in the entire present bill amount.

This is how the CESC has calculated on the total units consumed for two months, ignoring the average of last few months and also just taking ride of gullible users. Many consumers were shocked with this billing and seen making futile attempt to set it right. Will the CESC clarify or do we need to treat this also as another daylight robbery by a Government agency?

— Vijay Hemmige

Mysuru

9.5.2020

CSIR-CFTRI Director clarifies on Spirulina Chikkies

Dr. Raghavarao

Mysuru, May 10- Dr. KSMS Raghavarao, Director, CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysuru, has clarified as follows with regard to a statement in the recent television coverage on the Spirulina Chikkies developed by the Institute:

"We have come to know that reports televised on May 9, 2020 by some TV Channels have claimed that Spirulina Chikkies developed by CFTRI as a cure for COVID-19 which is far from the truth. CFTRI has never claimed that the Spirulina Chikkies or any of the other products recently supplied as relief are cures for any disease or illness. The Spirulina Chikkies are supplements for nutrients that help in building immunity."

"It is also clarified that the Chikkies were not developed as a cure for COVID but for combating malnutrition in children. They are helpful in all situations where immunity requires to be maintained."

"The TV reports also made a claim that the COVID cases in Mysuru were reduced because of Spirulina Chikkies, which is to say the least gross misrepresentation. I wish to put the record straight here that it is the untiring effort of the District

Administration, the Doctors and other staff of the District Hospital, and other Departments of the Government which is responsible for the disease status in Mysuru. The misrepresentation by the TV Channels is an injustice meted out to these dedicated Corona Warriors," the press release issued on behalf of Dr. KSMS Raghavarao, Director, CSIR-CFTRI, Mysuru, stated.

Obituary

K. Subbaraje Urs

Mysuru, May 10- K. Subbaraje Urs (86), retired Superintendent at KSRTC, BJP leader and a resident of Brindavan Extension, passed away this morning at his residence.

He leaves behind his son Mahesh Raje Urs and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed in Urs Burial Ground at the foot of Chamundi Hill this afternoon.

Excel Plant Stench: MP, MLA clarify stand before media

- No objection to Nagpur Model if people agree, says Ramdas
- Honest attempt made; public opinion sought, adds Pratap Simha

Mysuru, May 10 (BCT)- The issue of stench emanating from the Solid Waste Management Unit (Excel Plant) at Sewage Farm premises in Vidyaranyapuram and Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha's statement that he was committed to solve the problem while Krishnaraja MLA S.A. Ramdas insisting that a public opinion has to be sought before implementing any new project has led both the MP and the MLA to clarify their respective stands before the media.

The issue that began at a meeting chaired by Urban Development Minister B.A. Basavaraj (Byrathi Basavaraj) and Mysuru District Minister S.T. Somashekar at Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) on May 7 where Simha and Ramdas reportedly exchanged words on the Excel Plant issue continued yesterday with Ramdas issuing a clarification. Today again, MP Pratap Simha followed it up with another rejoinder that was released to the media with photographic evidence saying that a transparent and honest effort was made to solve the problem.

No objection: Ramdas

In his clarification, Ramdas, who was a former Minister too, has stated that he has no objection to scientific waste disposal as it has been done in Nagpur and other places by Zigma Global Environ Solutions, a private solid waste management services company that carried out bio-mining of 8 lakh tonnes of legacy waste spread across 50 acres in Nagpur.

"I have no objection to the Nagpur Model as proposed by Pratap Simha and I don't have any personal difference of opinion with Simha and as he has been repeatedly saying, I am like his brother and I have taken his views that no Minister or MLA has done anything so far to solve the stench problem at Vidyaranyapuram in a positive way. I represent the Krishnaraja Constituency under which comes the Excel Plant and people have reposed their faith in me and in the interest of people, I am urging the MP and the Ministers to shift the Excel Plant to a different location," he stated.

Shifting to Rayanakere

He said that if the Nagpur model is carried out in Mysuru without again inconveniencing the people of his Constituency, he was ready to co-operate with the officials and elected representatives to implement the project.

Pratap Simha *Ramdas*

"I have no objection if the efforts are made to convince people about the new project. The people should be convinced that the proposed project will not create environmental hazards and also will not endanger their health. I suggest that the waste treatment plant be shifted from Vidyaranyapuram in the heart of the city to Rayanakere that is 8 kilometres away from the heart of the city. The Mysuru City Corporation has already acquired 110 acres of land at Rayanakere," the MLA stated.

Public opinion already taken: MP

In his statement released to the media with photographic evidence and clippings of several newspapers, Pratap Simha today stated that as pointed out by MLA Ramdas, a public opinion has already been taken to clear mountains of legacy waste accumulated at Excel Plant.

Citing a series of reports published in media and photographs of him and previous District Minister V. Somanna interacting with officials and people residing in the surroundings of Vidyaranyapuram plant, the MP stated that the series of meetings were a part of generating public opinion on the project.

The untreated waste of two lakh tonnes accumulated at the plant remains the bone of contention for long and the foul smell that emanates from the plant has been taking a toll on the health of more than 50,000 people residing in the vicinity and surroundings including Vidyaranyapuram, Kanakagiri, J.P. Nagar, Gundu Rao Nagar and Vishweshwaranagar, he stated.

Honest efforts made

That's when the suggestion came up to rope in the services of Zigma Company which has been deploying bio-remediation technology to clear the waste in Nagpur and several other cities which has seen tremendous success. "The project is set to take off after keeping the proposal before the Urban Development Department. In a short span of five months, honest efforts have been made to find out a solution. Is it wrong?" he questioned.

"On Nov. 5, 2019, Somanna had led a delegation to the Excel Plant. Following the inspection and opinion of the people gathered at the plant, Somanna had formed a committee under the Chairmanship of DC Abhiram G. Sankar besides directing the committee to submit a report before Nov. 25. It was later instructed that the officials must visit the plant in Nagpur in Maharashtra and submit a report," Simha stated, citing the newspaper clipping and photos.

Ramdas invited for meetings

"A team of Corporators and officials led by the then Mayor Pushpalatha Jagannath including the DC and MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde visited the Nagpur plant and filed a positive opinion during the Karnataka Development Programme (KDP) progress review meeting held on Jan. 3. MLAs G.T. Devegowda and L. Nagendra had also favoured the project. MLA Ramdas too had been invited to all the above meetings," Simha stated and added that there was an opportunity for everyone to air their views in the meeting.

Issue taken to logical end

The team that visited Nagpur submitted a report and the Nagpur model project has now reached the stage where the works on installing the plant is set to take off. "All this has been achieved after running from pillar to post for three months. What more can we do? Was it wrong to take the issue to its logical end?" Simha questioned and added that like all elected representatives, MLA Ramdas too could have attended the meetings and addressed the three-decade-long issue.

"A plan is ready to dump and efficiently process waste at Rayanakere, Vidyaranyapuram and Kesare. This has been done to put a full stop to the often-heard argument over dumping all the waste at Sewage Farm. Also, not only Zigma, any company in the world can take up the tender," the MP stated.

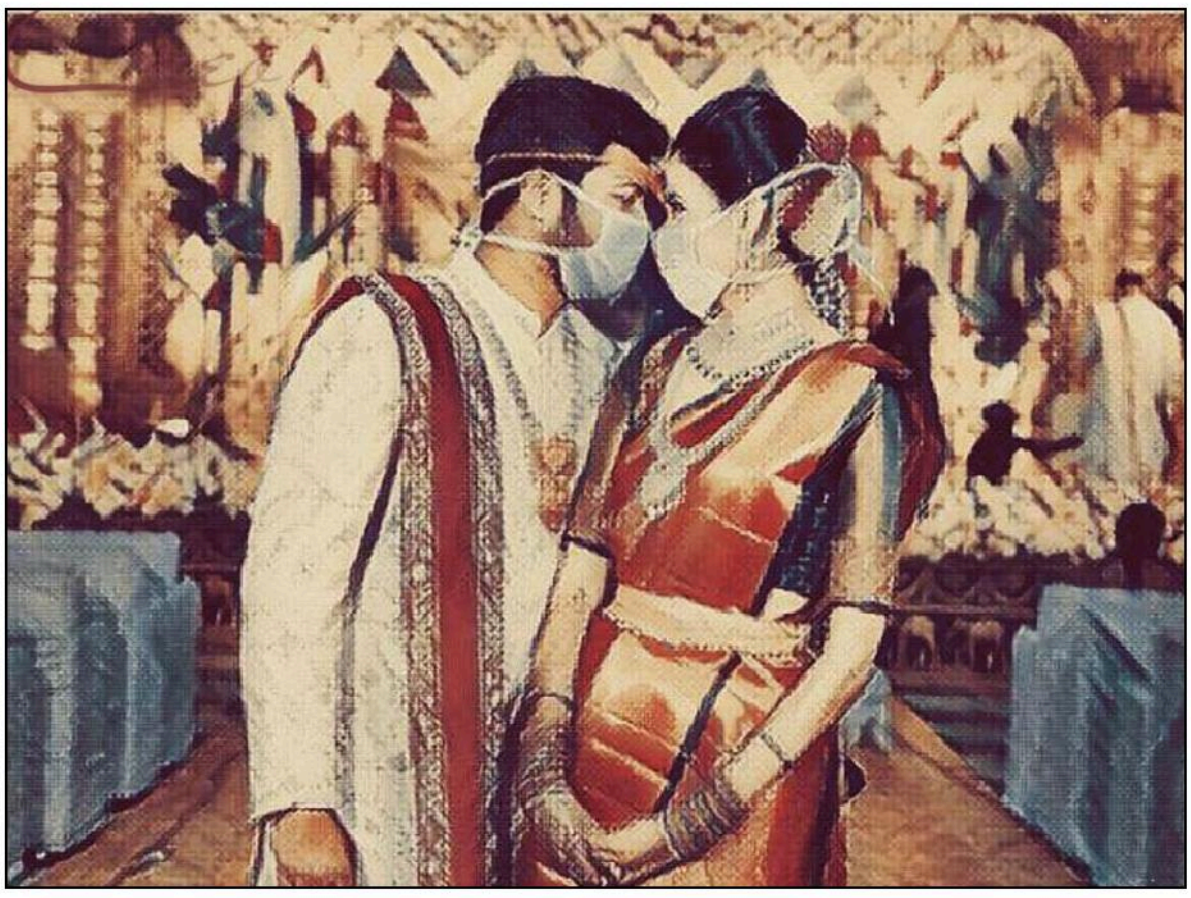
Promoted as Subedar

Mysuru, May 10- Kuttanda Ranjan Cariappa, Athletic Coach at the Madras Regiment Centre of Indian Army in Wellington, Ooty, has been promoted to the post of Subedar. He will discharge his duty as Subedar at Wellington. He hails from Hadageri village of Madapura in Kodagu and is the son of late Cariappa and Kasturi.

IN BLACK & WHITE

Vikram Muthanna

COVID Wedding and After



Life has become austere, especially weddings. COVID-19 has taken us back to 1960s India when Lal Bahadur Shastri chose to impose rationing and limiting guests at events.

Just like how today Government allows no more than 50 guests at a wedding, back then only 25 guests were allowed including the hosts! So apart from the bride and groom's Papa*ji*, Mummy*ji*, Dada*ji*, Chacha*ji* and a few other *jis,* Pandith*ji* was the only outsider allowed.

Similar effort to bring about a sense of austerity is being done in Delhi now. The Supreme Court has asked the Delhi Government to formulate a policy to stop food wastage and manage social functions in Delhi. And so a *'Policy for Holding Social Functions in Hotels, Motels and Low-Density Residential Areas (LDRA) in National Capital Territory of Delhi'* has been prepared.

According to this policy, one has to first get approval from the Urban Local Body (ULB) for the number of guests they plan to invite. The approval is based on the size of the venue and parking capacity. The number of guests cannot exceed the guest limit approved by the ULB.

Then, the caterer for the event should have registered with an NGO and make proper arrangements to handover surplus food to these NGOs so it can be used to feed the poor. The caterer must also display his licence issued by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) at the venue.

Then, the wedding party cannot use any horse-driven carriage or band outside of the venue and the organiser has to segregate the waste at the venue before disposal.

Now, who is going to monitor all this? The Delhi Police, the Excise Department, the Department of Food and Safety, the Building Department, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee and the Urban Local Body!

The Policy is indeed very progressive and could be applied pan India. But do implementing authorities understand the spirit of this policy? Or will it lead to corruption? Could this well-intentioned policy end up like a version of 'Delhi Guest Control' and 'Delhi Catering Orders' of the 1960s and 70s?

This reminds me of an anecdote mentioned in a research paper by Tarangini Sriraman, a Professor at Azim Premji University. She writes of one Madanlal Mehta, who served as an Inspector and later Food and Supply Officer roughly from 1965 to 1980 in the Delhi Food and Supplies Department.

It seems, once a person came to Mehta to tip him off about a violation that would occur at a wedding hosted by a man who ran a crockery shop in Karol Bagh. Mehta dragged himself unwillingly to the site of the wedding at Kirti Nagar to inspect the catering arrangements and the guest list.

On arriving there, he came to know that the bride's father was already facing 8 different complaints in connection with the wedding. Someone had come to press charges against him for using unauthorised electricity, someone else to question his "unauthorised use" of his own garden and so on.

Mehta says, *"It was clear that the man had invited more than the stipulated number of guests and rationed items were used to cook indiscriminately, but I felt a lot of compassion for the bride's father who was under a lot of pressure on so many fronts. So I shouted at him and pretended to be angry. But I gestured to him to simply give me the samples which I inspected and reported as revealing no violation."* Mehta went back to his office and made an entry in his Daily Diary that there was no violation at the wedding.

Mehta's story does not end there. He adds, *'Mujhe baad me patachala ki apniladkikosasuralbhejneke baad ekghantekeandar hi, wohbechara mar gaya'* (I later learnt that just an hour after he had sent his daughter to her husband's house the poor man died). Yes, Government agencies can induce such enormous stress that it can prove fatal.

Now, while Supreme Court has the right intentions, can this policy be implemented without bringing back a sense of Licence Raj and Corruption? Will food wastage stop? Will weddings stop blocking traffic? Worse, in these COVID times when jobs are disappearing faster than the virus is spreading, will the wedding industry, that employs lakhs of people, disappear?

Most of us love to hate opulent weddings, but let's not forget it employs people. Lots of people; from flower vendors to fashion designers; from cleaners to jewellers; from beauticians to cooks; from pandits to paanwallahs.

The big fat Indian wedding is a big fat contributor to the economy. According to the accounting firm KPMG, after the United States at 70 billion dollars, India has the next biggest wedding industry in the world at 50 billion dollars, which is about Rs. 35,000 crore. And COVID has wiped it clean.

That said, one good outcome of COVID wedding has been for the poor and the middle class who are otherwise forced to spend money on weddings to show status just as the wealthy do.

In our country, poor people take loans from private financiers to host weddings beyond their means leaving them trapped in debt. Now thanks to COVID and astrologers, who insist on the dates, poor people can save some money by avoiding big weddings without losing face.

Meanwhile, let's hope grand weddings return, albeit with certain regulations so as to stop wastage and pollution. After all, a lot of people's livelihood is dependent on people celebrating the beginning of their new lives.

e-mail: vikram@starofmysore.com

City Police Inspector sings away Coronavirus blues

S.D. Suresh Kumar

Ashwini Murali

Rakesh Sudhir

Mysuru Studio makes awareness video to convey message of safety during COVID times

Mysuru, May 10 (BCT)- Amid restrictions post-nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of Coronavirus and "flatten the curve", many volunteers and social media campaigners have come up with out-of-the-box ideas to educate people on the precautionary measures and how to keep themselves safe.

A Police Inspector from Mysuru has sung a melodious song to spread awareness on Coronavirus, saying music has always been his choice for effective communication. His song advises people to keep distance, maintain cleanliness and practice hand washing regularly. Policemen are not only out on streets to ensure that people do not violate rules, but are also upping their game on social media with such innovative ideas.

Meet **S.D. Suresh Kumar,** Inspector of Lashkar Police Station in Mysuru city who has a good voice and a talent for singing. And he has displayed it through an awareness video that is already making news with a number of clicks and views on social media.

Dedicated to Corona Warriors

The video highlights the importance of washing hands and how people must practice social distancing. The video is dedicated to all health workers, doctors and law enforcement officers working to slow the spread of the infection. Shot creatively with impactful visuals, the video shows Corona Warriors doing selfless service with Suresh Kumar singing in the background.

The 4.50-minute video song shows the work done by various Government and non-Government agencies and highlights the leadership role played by Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar, City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta, Mysuru City Corporation Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde, Superintendent of Police C.B. Ryshyanth and Deputy Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Dr.A.N. Prakash Gowda.

'India Jeethega, Corona Haarega'

Having inspiring lines in Kannada, English and Hindi like 'India Jeethega, Corona Haarega' (India will win, Corona will be defeated), 'Corona runs, India wins', the video ends with a 'Jai Ho' for all Corona Warriors. The visualisation and picturisation provides the viewer with a bird's eye view of Mysuru's fight against the killer virus.

The music to the song has been composed by **Rakesh Sudhir** of Studio Swaramadhura and the lyrics have been written by Ashwini Murali. "Singing is the best way to reach a larger audience and I have a passion for singing since my high school days," Inspector Suresh Kumar, who is a native of Puttur in Dakshina Kannada, told 'Star of Mysore.'

Suresh's seven-year-old son Ankush learns flute from Rakesh Sudhir and the idea to make an awareness song originated when Rakesh learnt about the Inspector's singing skills and his voice.

The song has been liked and shared by thousands of people on social media platforms. Lyricist Ashwini Murali hopes her efforts would create awareness about social distancing, sanitisation to effectively check the spread of Coronavirus. "I hope my song would create awareness and even if it makes a little difference, I will be blessed," she said.

M.V. Skanda is the recording engineer, Pavan Poova is the director of photography, editing has been done by Kool Kishore, Pavan Urs has provided lighting effects and Ashwini Murali, Rakesh Sudhir and Vijay Surya are in the chorus. Mix and mastering has been done at Studio Swaramadhura, founded by Rakesh Sudhir with an intention of serving art, artistes and music fraternity. Song YouTube link: *https://youtu.be/2WNUvlWNhwk*

MLA Ramdas performs *'Pada Puja'* to mark Mother's Day

Krishnaraja MLA S.A. Ramdas seen washing the feet of a mother at a programme held in CADA Office premises this morning.

Mysuru, May 10 (PM&KS)- Mother's Day is a celebration honouring the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. It is celebrated on various days in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of March or May.

Celebrating Mother's Day in a unique way, KR Constituency MLA S.A. Ramdas washed the feet (Pada Puja) of four mothers who are serving in various fields and also felicitated them at a programme organised at CADA Office premises here this morning.

'Pada Puja' is a unique celebration of expressing deep gratitude to the beloved Guru or the elders (in today's event the mothers whom all of us revere as God). The word 'pada' means 'sacred feet' in Sanskrit.

The MLA washed the feet of Dr. Indira Narasimhan (Doctor), Vidu. Savithri Prabhakar (Musician), Savitha (House maid) and Ananthalakshmi (Owner of a food joint) and felicitated them.

Calling upon everyone to love and respect their mothers, Ramdas said that no country has the culture of treating mothers as God except in India and added that Indians respect Earth and the country as a mother.

Pointing out that mothers not only give birth, he said that they (mothers) raise their children to be good citizens thus becoming role model to others. Ramdas said that his late mother, who was greater than God to him, was responsible for him to become a good and clean politician.

BJP leaders Vidya, Vadivelu, Nagendra, Annapoorna and others were present at the unique programme.

A mother's peck

Mysuru District Minister tweets photo of his mother pecking his cheek

Mysuru, May 10 (KS)- On the occasion of Mother's Day, District Minister S.T. Somashekar has tweeted a photo of his mother pecking his cheek during his swearing-in ceremony with a message to youngsters.

In his tweet to his mother, the Minister has stated: "Carrying in the womb for nine months, breathing life, giving birth, giving a name, not losing courage and keeping all the problems with you for the sake of children, giving a ray of hope for tomorrow's dreams, correcting the mistakes, supporting in every way to climb a hill and smiling after seeing your child reach the mountain peak, your never ending spirit is my inspiration now. I am trying to be the way you are. Dear mother, who is my everything, a Happy Mother's Day."

In his message to youngsters, Minister Somashekar has stated that no matter how high one grows, never forget the parents as there are no relatives than father and mother and called upon the youngsters to respect their parents and take care of them.

A file photo of District Minister S.T. Somashekar's mother pecking his cheek during the swearing-in ceremony, which the Minister has tweeted on the occasion of Mother's Day today.

ASI succumbs to injuries

Mysuru, May 10 (KS)- Nanjangud Rural Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) M. Srinivas (58), who had suffered serious injuries in an accident on May 3 and admitted to a private hospital in city, succumbed to injuries at the hospital yesterday.

He leaves behind his wife, two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends.

A native of Lalanakere in Mandya district, the ASI, who was transferred from Bannur Police Station to Nanjangud recently, was riding home on his bike after finishing his duty at about 9.30 pm on May 3. He lost control of his bike, when a stray animal came in front of his bike all of a sudden resulting in his fall.

Srinivas, who suffered serious head injuries, was immediately shifted to a private hospital by Nanjangud Rural Police, where he succumbed to his injuries yesterday. Post-mortem was conducted today and the body was handed over to his family members, according to Police.

Power disruption in rural areas on May 12

Mysuru, May 10-As CESC has taken up quarterly maintenance works, power supply will be disrupted in the following areas from 10 am to 5 pm on May 12:

66/11 KV Parinamipura: Holesalu, Kalihundi, Parinamipura, Kaveripura, Mudalahundi, Banave, Medani, Madavadi villages/ Gram Panchayat limits.

66/11 KV Talakad: Talakad, B. Shettihalli, Banave, Doddapura, Hemmige, Karavatti villages/ Gram Panchayat limits.

66/11 KV Maliyur: Chidravalli and Doddabagilu Gram Panchayat limits.

Indian Grey Wolf 'Camera Trapped'

for first time at Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary in Ch'nagar

Chamarajanagar, May 10 (SS&KS)- For the first time, an Indian Grey Wolf has been 'Camera Trapped' in the Kothanur Range of Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary in Chamarajanagar district.

The wolf was captured in the camera installed by a group of conservationists studying and camera-trapping leopards in the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary on Apr. 7 early morning.

The Indian Grey Wolf was documented by Sanjay Gubbi of Nature Conservation Foundation and his team while they were camera-trapping leopards.

The study team consists of Sandesh Appu Naik, M.N. Girish, Gnanendra, H.C. Poornesha and others.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*,' Sanjay Gubbi said that all four large canid species — Dhole, Indian Wolf, Jackal and Bengal Fox — have been spotted in Chamarajanagar district. He said that Chamarajanagar is the only district where Tigers, Dholes and Wolves are found together and added that though these two animals are also found in Chikkamagalur district, they are not found together. While Tigers and Dholes are found in Madodi, wolves are found in Kadur.

Sanjay Gubbi said that in Karnataka, the wolf is found in isolated pockets in the drier areas, including Haveri, Koppal, Tumakuru, Raichur and Ballari and added that the Indian Grey Wolf is a highly endangered and threatened species which is mostly found in grasslands, scrub forests and rarely in dry deciduous forests. Gubbi further said that though the species is distributed widely, it is threatened largely because of habitat loss and retaliatory killing and added that the population of Indian Wolf is said to be lower than that of tigers. They are protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, he said.

The Indian Grey Wolf that was camera trapped at Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.

Govt. for 30 percent cut in curriculum

(Continued from page 1)

Stressing on the need for introducing lessons on Novel Coronavirus, Suresh Kumar directed the officials to incorporate lessons on the deadly virus at different levels in all classes. It is also necessary that the lessons on the pandemic are made mandatory in syllabus, he added.

Maintaining that it has become necessary to follow physical distancing even in schools and colleges for which modalities are being worked out, he said that this practice may become the norm in the future.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) too is mulling on cutting its academic syllabus by 40 percent.

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Mysuru readies to receive 2,500 foreign returnees

(Continued from page 1)

These natives of Mysuru will arrive by road from Bengaluru, Mangaluru or Karwar and will be accommodated in the 170 hotels. They have to foot the hotel bills including food and accommodation.

Hotels earmarked for passengers have been asked to have round-the-clock presence of health personnel. They will be monitored by health staff and at least three rooms in such hotels will be reserved for health staff for setting up 24x7 clinics.

Symptomatic and asymptomatic travellers

Arrangements for the screening and quarantine of international passengers have been made in Mysuru and returnees will be divided into two categories — symptomatic travellers and asymptomatic travellers — after a screening process.

District officials told *Star of Mysore* that as per the Standard Operating Procedure, those who are symptomatic, will be sent to the designated Government Hospital where they will be isolated and tested three times over a period of 14 days. There will be a reporting mechanism for them for 14 more days. Those who are asymptomatic will be sent to hotels where they will be tested twice over a period of 7 days. If the test results of asymptomatic persons return negative, they will be sent to home quarantine. The passengers will bear the costs of their stay in the hotel, officials said. Those who test negative but show symptoms will be kept at the hotel and be tested again and on the 12th day if they test positive, they will be shifted to the designated hospital and treated accordingly, the officials added.

Mysuru DC Abhiram G. Sankar has said that till yesterday, as many as 215 persons from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have entered Mysuru. They have been quarantined in community halls. "If they can afford to pay the bills, they will be accommodated in hotels. Community halls and hotels have been identified in all taluks for quarantine as the number of people coming in is expected to increase over the next week. We are also vigilant and prepared to handle those returning from foreign nations," he said.

Minister writes to DC

Mysuru District Minister S.T. Somashekar has written to DC Abhiram Sankar appreciating the administration's efforts to prevent the spread of the killer disease and has hailed the role of all Corona Warriors including Police, doctors, healthcare workers, ASHA workers and officials. "Because of your efforts, the positive cases have come down from 90 to 4 and soon, all the 4 will be discharged," the Minister said. On the returnees from abroad, Somashekar asked the DC to mandatorily put all of them in 14-day quarantine and take special care of women, children and the elderly.

DC responds

Responding to the Minister's letter, the DC has said, "The District Administration and all Department staff and officers are grateful to the Minister and the Government, for the continuing support and encouragement. We will all work as a team as before, and put in our best efforts to control the spread of COVID."

A hotel room being sanitised.

COVID-19 District Emergency Control Room

The Mysuru District Emergency Control Room for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is functional 24x7 and has a team of operators and medical professionals who are working in shifts. All related queries will be handled professionally and necessary guidance will be provided to all callers, according to Mysuru DC.

Mysuru Helpline numbers
1077 or 0821-2423800
Karnataka Helpline number: 104
Central Helpline number:
011-23978046
Email: ncov2019@gmail.com

PRAY Safe STAY Safe
SINCE 1948 CYCLE
everyone has a reason to pray

COVID-19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	5,029
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	4,757
Persons isolated in home for 14 days (Inter-State travellers)	:	268
Persons isolated in hospital for active cases	:	4
Total samples tested	:	5,331
Samples found negative	:	5,241
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	90
Persons cured / discharged	:	86
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	28
Persons cured / discharged	:	14
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	847
Persons cured / discharged	:	410
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	31
Total active cases in India	:	41,472
Persons cured / discharged	:	19,357
Death toll so far in India	:	2,109

(Note: Figures till 5 pm)

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